

## CLAIMS

1. A wound treatment device comprising a water-impermeable envelope having at least one aperture, wherein the envelope contains a therapeutic  
5 substance, and wherein the at least one aperture in the envelope is blocked by a degradable material that breaks down in the presence of one or more components of wound fluid thereby permitting the therapeutic substance to contact the wound fluid.
- 10 2. A wound treatment device according to claim 1, wherein the envelope is formed substantially from flexible sheet material.
3. A wound treatment device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the total area of the apertures in the envelope is from about 0.01 to about 1cm<sup>2</sup>.
- 15 4. A wound treatment device according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the envelope has only one said aperture.
5. A wound treatment device according to any preceding claim, wherein the  
20 degradable material breaks down preferentially in infected wounds.
6. A wound dressing according to any preceding claim, wherein the degradable material comprises a substrate for an enzyme present in wound fluid.
- 25 7. A wound treatment device according to any preceding claim, wherein the degradable material comprises a substance selected from the group consisting of elastin, fibronectin, collagen, crosslinked gelatin, fibrinogen, casein, hyaluronates, plasminogen, fibrin, chitin, chitosan, oxidized cellulose, polylactide/polyglycolide copolymers, and mixtures thereof.
- 30 8. A wound treatment device according to any preceding claim wherein the therapeutic agents are selected from the group consisting of antiseptics, antibiotics, analgesics, steroids and growth factors, and mixtures thereof.

9. A wound treatment device according to claim 8, wherein the therapeutic agents comprise an antimicrobial agent selected from colloidal silver, silver sulfadiazine, povidone iodine, chlorhexidine, and mixtures thereof.

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10. A wound treatment device according to any preceding claim, wherein the device is adapted to provide sustained release of the therapeutic agent into the wound fluid following the opening of the aperture.

10 11. A wound treatment device according to any preceding claim, wherein the therapeutic substance is dispersed in or on a solid substrate

12. A wound treatment device according to any preceding claim, wherein the therapeutic agent is dispersed or encapsulated in a bioerodible substance.

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13. A wound treatment device according to claim 12, wherein the bioerodible substance is selected from the group consisting of proteins, polysaccharides, biodegradable synthetic polymers, glycosaminoglycans, and mixtures thereof.

20 14. A wound treatment device according to any preceding claim which is sterile and packaged in a microorganism-impermeable container.

15. A wound dressing comprising a wound treatment device according to any preceding claim.

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